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Crime prevention and criminal justice

Belarus, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Viet Nam: draft resolution

Improving the coordination of efforts against slavery and trafficking in persons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/25 of 15 November 2000, 58/137 of 22 December 2003 and other relevant General Assembly resolutions on slavery and trafficking in persons,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/27 of 27 July 2006 on strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating trafficking in persons and protecting victims of such trafficking, and other previous Council resolutions on trafficking in persons that have emerged from the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Recalling further the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[1] and in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[2] and the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery,

Welcoming the progress achieved by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in accordance with article 32 of the Convention, and by the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery in accordance with Economic and Social Council decisions 16 (LVI) and 17 (LVI) of 17 May 1974 and 1980/127 of 2 May 1980,

Recognizing that slavery and trafficking in persons is a violation of the inherent dignity of human beings, impairs the enjoyment of human rights, continues

[1] Resolution 55/25, annex I.
[2] Ibid., annex II.

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to pose a serious challenge to humanity and requires a concerted international response,

Welcoming international cooperation in order to protect and promote the human rights of persons exploited through trafficking and slavery and to advocate for their liberation and for economic, educational and other means of support to victims of trafficking,

Welcoming also the efforts of Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in preventing and combating slavery and trafficking in persons and enhancing the protection of and assistance to victims of slavery and trafficking in persons,

Welcoming further the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission of Human Rights on the human rights aspects of the victims in trafficking in persons, especially women and children[3] and of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery,[4]

Stressing the urgent need for a comprehensive, coordinated and holistic approach to the problem of slavery and trafficking in persons, including to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to prosecute traffickers, prevent slavery and trafficking in persons and protect their victims,

1. *Recognizes* that broad international cooperation between Member States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations is essential for the effective countering of the threat of slavery and trafficking in persons, and invites them to engage in a global partnership against slavery and trafficking in persons with a view to eliminating all forms of slavery and trafficking in persons and protecting and assisting their victims;

2. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to take measures to ratify or accede to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[1] the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[2] and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[5] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[6] and the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery and to implement fully all aspects of these instruments;

3. *Recognizes* the need to arrive at a better understanding of what constitutes demand and how to combat it, decides to strengthen efforts to counter demand for victims of trafficking in persons, and encourages Member States to consider adopting legislative or other measures, such as educational, social or cultural measures, to discourage and reduce the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, and that thus promotes trafficking;

[1] E/CN.4/2006/62 and Add.1-3.
[4] A/HRC/Sub.1/58/25 and A/HRC/Sub.1/58/L.9.
[5] Resolution 54/263, annex II.
[6] Resolution 34/180, annex.

4. *Urges* Member States to give necessary instructions and resources to their police, prosecutors and social authorities to combat trafficking in persons and care for the rights and needs of the victims;

5. *Encourages* Member States to take all appropriate measures to promote the physical, cognitive and psychological recovery, rehabilitation and social integration of human beings who have become victims of exploitation, violence and abuse as a result of modern-day slavery and trafficking in persons;

6. *Encourages* Member States to initiate and develop working-level contacts between countries of origin, transit and destination, especially between police, prosecutors and social authorities;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to harmonize and improve the coordination of efforts of the United Nations and to enhance cooperation with regional and other international organizations with the objective of facilitating a holistic and comprehensive approach in prosecuting traffickers, preventing trafficking in persons and protecting and assisting the victims of trafficking and, to this end, to:

(a) Set up a coordination mechanism in the form of an inter-agency working group on trafficking in persons, with the participation of interested Member States, relevant agencies, funds, programmes and relevant Special Rapporteurs in the United Nations system, the International Organization for Migration, the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and other relevant international governmental organizations;

(b) Entrust the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to coordinate, within existing resources, the activities of the inter-agency working group on trafficking in persons, which should be based in Vienna;

(c) Take into account the results of the meeting on technical assistance for Member States in order to coordinate the work of agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other relevant intergovernmental organizations, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/27;

8. *Decides* that the inter-agency working group shall have the following functions:

(a) To encourage, stimulate and monitor the activities of the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations, the International Organization for Migration, Interpol and other international organizations in order to ensure the comprehensive implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and other intergovernmental bodies on trafficking in persons;

(b) To improve accountability and ensure transparency in the activities of the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations and other international organizations;

(c) To identify gaps and duplication in anti-trafficking policies and ensure effective and efficient use of existing resources, using systems already in place at the regional and national levels;

(d) To provide a platform for the exchange of views, information, experiences and best practices on anti-trafficking activities for the purpose of enhancing the impact of these activities and in order to avoid the unnecessary reporting by Member States to several agencies on the same subjects;

(e) To establish relations with relevant international and regional governmental organizations;

9. *Invites* Member States to provide voluntary contributions to the coordinator of the inter-agency working group in order to facilitate optimum implementation of coordination functions;

10. *Encourages* Member States to report all incidents of human trafficking and crimes addressed in the aforementioned conventions and protocols to the coordinator of the inter-agency working group, in order to provide the international community with optimal support to more effectively prosecute traffickers, prevent trafficking in persons and protect and assist its victims;

11. *Welcomes* the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled *Trafficking in persons: global patterns*, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to prepare such periodic reports and continue its efforts to establish an Office database, in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration and other members of the inter-agency working group, and an Office website on trafficking in persons, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

12. *Invites* the inter-agency working group to provide information to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and contribute to the elaboration of the periodic comprehensive reports of the Office and the Office database and website on trafficking in persons, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, the elements of the draft strategy of the United Nations on prosecuting traffickers, preventing trafficking in persons and assisting and protecting the victims of trafficking, and the proposals on strengthening the capacities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for the efficient implementation of its coordination functions.